



Pakistan

Jehangir Bashar
Federal secretary, Ministry of Education



Born in 1949 in Peshawar, Jehangir Bashar received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Peshawar in 1971 and a Master of Science in Soil Mechanics from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London in 1975. He is a Chartered Engineer (Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, U.K). He is also a Fellow of the Geological Society, U.K. and Member of the Institution of Water Engineers and Environmental Scientists, U.K. Jehangir has been with the Government of Pakistan since 1985. For the past two years he has been Federal Secretary, Ministry of Education, with overall responsibility for the education sector of Pakistan. He has spearheaded a number of reforms in the Education field – curriculum, textbooks, assessment, examinations, inclusive and early childhood education and private schools regulation, to name a few. Jehangir has worked on a number of other senior positions in the Government. He was Secretary (2004-06) of the Board of Investment, responsible for the promotion of investment, particularly foreign investment. For about two years (2002 – 2003), he was Additional Chief Secretary, Government of NWFP. The Government at the time paid particular attention to developing the social (education and health) sectors – Jehangir played a leading role in this effort. He has also been Chairman of the Bank of Khyber. Jehangir has worked in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources for some seven years, from 1991 to 1996 and again from 2000 to 2002, where he looked after international affairs, policy and coordination. His other assignments were in the Ministry of Labour and Manpower (Human Resource Development), Privatization Commission and the Planning Commission (Science and Technology Section). He has also worked as Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Division, responsible for Cabinet affairs. From 1974 to 1984, Jehangir worked with Binnie and Partners, Consulting Engineers. Apart from the head office in London, he has worked with the firm in Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. From 1971 to 1974, he worked on the multipurpose, Tarbela Dam Project. Jehangir Bashar has been the leader of several Government delegations for discussions and negotiations on investment, economic and education matters, with foreign governments and multilateral agencies. He has represented Pakistan on the UNESCO Executive Board. UNESCO has recently nominated him to the Technical Advisory Group on Capacity Building (in education), which is co-sponsored by the World Economic Forum, Geneva. He is a Member of the Boards and Syndicates of many Pakistani universities.

Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future

It gives me an immense pleasure to convey, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, my heartiest greetings and felicitations on the eve of 48th session of the International Conference on Education. The theme of this year's Conference "Inclusive Education – The way to the future" is an important and challenging task in the field of education. Inclusive education means that all students in a school, regardless of their strengths or weaknesses in any area, become part of the school community.

The inclusive approach maximizes individual growth and builds a sense of community and participation. Inclusive education offers children with special needs a diverse stimulating environment in which to grow and learn. It develops an appreciation that everyone has unique characteristics and abilities. It helps teachers recognize that all students have strengths.

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“Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future”**



The Government of Pakistan is committed to cater to the needs of all children without any discrimination. All relevant Ministries and Departments in the country are required to providing the required knowledge, skills and values through educational system, both formal and informal education. Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education in Pakistan is the focal point for implementing a number of projects and programmes to provide education to children with special needs.

Ministry of Education has undertaken an initiative of inclusive Education in order to include/integrate the children with disabilities in the regular school programmes and to provide them with an opportunity for learning along with other children at an equal footing. The Ministry has prepared a tool kit on creating inclusive learning environment in the national language in order to provide our teachers with necessary knowledge skills and initiative. The kit is being used by some of the schools in the country where inclusive education is being practiced.

Pakistan’s National Education Policy accords a priority to implementation of an inclusive learning environment through development/training of teachers and building of partnership with all relevant partners and stakeholders including national and international organizations. The Education Ministry has launched initiatives for a policy reform and designing an effective implementation strategy through provision of necessary facilities, development of material and training of implementers, including teachers.

The Government of Pakistan is cognizant of the fact that we need to intensify our efforts for exchange of expertise and material at the regional and global level to benefit in the area of inclusive education. We must join hands, share experiences and provide support to fully implement the principles of inclusive education. This will surely lead our way to the future by making every individual citizen a contributor to the national development. This Conference offers us an opportunity to renew our commitment to inclusive education and commit our sources to achieve it.

I wish the Conference a great success and look forward to valuable outcomes of this global gathering.